

The Commoner.

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Vol. 4. No. 4.

Lincoln, Nebraska, February 12, 1904.

Whole No. 160.

War Begun— Organize!

As long as the friends of the Kansas City platform remained quiet the reorganizers prated of harmony, but as soon as Mr. Bryan, speaking as he believes the sentiment of the uncorrupted and incorruptible rank and file of the party, suggested that the Kansas City platform should be reaffirmed, a howl went up from the papers that bolted in 1896 and that have since that time lost no opportunity to abuse and vilify those who supported the ticket.

The lack of an open plan or purpose among the reorganizers has been made apparent, and they have in their wrath disclosed the bunco game which they had in preparation for the convention.

One of the reorganizers, who has since been suggested for vice president, says that it is desirable for "the more influential democrats to keep quiet." This from one who bolted in 1896 and now represents all that is undemocratic shows that deception is to be attempted again. The Commoner has frequently pointed out that reorganization means a return to Clevelandism, and it now adds that he is the logical candidate in case the reorganizers succeed in obtaining control of the convention. If organized greed is to dominate the democratic party, then Grover Cleveland more than any other person—(democrat or republican)—would deserve to be the standard-bearer. Then, with J. Pierpont Morgan as chairman of the national committee, and Rockefeller as treasurer, the party could expect the cordial support of the New York World, the Brooklyn Eagle, the Chicago Chronicle and the Nashville American again.

It is time to organize to save the party from the designs of the plutocracy. There ought to be a club formed in every precinct, and at once. The convention will soon be called and the fight must be made at the primaries where the voters speak. Every caucus, primary and convention should indorse the Kansas City platform, and only those should be selected as delegates who are willing to carry out the wishes of the voters, or, better still, who themselves agree with the voters.

A delegate does not act for himself—he acts for those who send him, and no one worthy to go as a delegate will object to instructions. If any one objects to indorsement, compel him to present a platform setting forth his views, that the voters may pass upon the question. Democracy means the rule of the people, and an honest expression of the popular will must be demanded. The enemy is organized and it will have plenty of money. Our appeal must be to the moral sense which, when aroused, is mightier than money.

Organize at once and be ready for the primaries. Some of the officeholders are reported as against the Kansas City platform—they will be for it when they find how popular it is.

Miles and Others.

When General Miles retired from the head of the army after forty years of faithful service he was dismissed with a formal and cold-blooded order issued by a discredited subordinate. There was, at the time, very general criticism because of the absence in this order of all recognition of General Miles' distinguished services.

It was explained by the champions of Mr. Roosevelt that the order issued on the occasion of General Miles' retirement was in keeping with orders issued on similar occasions.

Subsequently, however, General Corbin, who

has had considerably more experience at a Washington city desk than he has had upon the field of battle, was transferred from his Capital City post to the command of a division of the army. The Roosevelt administration took occasion, upon the mere transfer of General Corbin, to pay a very high tribute to the services he had rendered the American people.

Later Lieutenant General S. B. M. Young, chief of staff, retired and instead of a formal order, as was issued in General Miles' case, a general order was issued at the direction of President Roosevelt in which order an enormously high tribute was paid to General Young.

Yet some of Mr. Roosevelt's friends seem to seriously undertake the effort to convince the American people that the snub administered by the Roosevelt administration to General Miles was not deliberate.

It seems that under this administration men like Dewey, Miles and Schley, who have been conspicuous in serving the American people, have come in for deliberate snubs, while men who are comparatively unknown are the recipients of the most generous praise.

Where Lincoln Stood

Revolutionize through the ballot box and restore the government once more to the affections and hearts of men by making it express, as it was intended to do, the highest spirit of justice and liberty.

Let us plant ourselves on the rock of the Declaration of Independence and the gates of hell shall not be able to prevail against us.

Stand with anybody that stands right, stand with him while he is right and part with him when he goes wrong.

Gold is good enough in its place. Living, brave, patriotic men are better than gold.

I beg of you not to allow your minds or your hearts to be diverted from the support of all necessary measures for the purpose by any miserable picayune arguments addressed to your pockets or inflammatory appeal made to your passions and your prejudices.

The resources, advantages and powers of the American people are very great, and they have consequently succeeded to equally great responsibilities. It seems to have devolved upon them to test whether a government established on the principles of human freedom can be maintained against an effort to build one upon the exclusive foundation of human bondage.

My wish is that you will do just as you think fit with your own suffrage, in the case, and not constrain any of your subordinates to other than he thinks fit with his.

The world is in want of a good definition of the word liberty. We all declare ourselves to be for liberty; but we do not all mean the same thing. Some mean that a man can do as he pleases with himself and his property. With others it means that some men can do as they please with other men and other men's labor. Each of these things is called liberty, although they are entirely different. To give an illustration: A shepherd drives a wolf from the throat of his sheep when attacked by him, and the sheep, of course, thanks the shepherd for the preservation of his life; but the wolf denounces him as despoiling the wolf of his liberty; especially if it be a black sheep.

Attention!— \$100 Reward!

In order to show how impossible it is for the opponents of the Kansas City platform to construct a new platform, satisfactory even to themselves, The Commoner offers the following reward: One hundred dollars (in gold, silver, or paper, as they may choose) will be given for a democratic platform for 1904 covering ten subjects (including imperialism, trusts, money, tariff, and labor) upon which the New York World, the Boston Herald, the Brooklyn Eagle, the Richmond Times, the Chicago Chronicle, the St. Paul Globe, the Louisville Courier-Journal, the Nashville American, the Memphis Commercial-Appeal, and the Atlanta Journal will agree. If they cannot all agree on the same platform, a proportionate sum will be given for any platform on which two or more of the above named papers will agree. If no two of them can agree upon the same platform the sum of ten dollars will be given to any one of the above named papers which will prepare and print in its own columns such a platform, provided no republican paper of equal circulation within ten days claims such platform as a republican document. Five dollars extra will be given to anyone of the said papers which will secure a letter from either Mr. Cleveland, Mr. Gorman or Mr. Parker indorsing all of the platform proposed by it.

If these papers cannot agree upon a platform, how can they expect to dictate a platform acceptable to those who voted the ticket in 1896 and 1900? If their failure to agree is due, not to differences of opinion, but to disinclination to make their views known, how can they contend that they favor honest methods and are trying to appeal to honest people? The Kansas City platform is a clear and concise statement of the party's position and its reaffirmation will show that the party is still true to the interests of the people and its further utterances will have weight, but no weight can attach to the utterances of those who are willing to indorse anything that seems to be temporarily popular or abandon anything that seems temporarily unpopular. Let these leading papers among the reorganizers present their platforms or confess either that they are hopelessly divided among themselves or that they prefer to plot in secret.

The Eternal Struggle.

This is the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. We do not doubt that republican organizations throughout the country will very generally celebrate this day because the republican party claims Abraham Lincoln as its patron saint, while repudiating his principles.

Abraham Lincoln frequently had something to say of the moral issue in politics. On one occasion Mr. Lincoln said: "We cannot say people have the right to do wrong; that is the real issue. That is the issue that will continue in this country when the poor tongues of Judge Douglas and myself shall be silent. It is the eternal struggle between these two—right and wrong—throughout the world. They are the two principles that have stood the test since the beginning of time, and they will ever continue to struggle. The one is the common right of humanity and the other the divine right of kings. It is the same principle in whatever shape it develops."

"The eternal struggle between these two principles: right and wrong," confronts the American people today. The contest is not presented in